

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 1-12 and 14 are pending in the application.

Applicants maintain that the invention defined in claim 1 as previously presented is patentable for the reasons of record, including those set forth in Amendment E, filed on April 2, 2008, and as discussed by the undersigned attorney with Examiner Manoharan in the telephone interview conducted on May 28, 2008.

Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution on the merits, applicants have amended claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as communicated to the undersigned attorney in the telephone interview on May 28, 2008, namely by including the limitations of dependent claim 13 and to make reference to pressure-swing distillation (PSD) as described in the specification. However, the word "about" has not been removed from claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants note that the composition of the second distillate in claim 1 as amended is provided with reference to single value concentrations (i.e., about 68 mol % ethanol, about 6 mol % water, about 25 mol % ethyl acetate and about 1 mol % other components) and not concentration ranges. Applicants respectfully submit that the word "about" used in connection with a single value is an acceptable word of approximation.

It is applicants understanding that claim 1 as amended overcomes the rejections of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as set forth in the Office action dated November 2, 2007. In view of the above, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections

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under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of claims 1-12 and 14.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue protection for the subject matter of claim 1 as previously presented in a continuing application.

As applicants' previous response to the Office action dated November 2, 2007 was fully responsive, it is believed that no fees are required in connection with this supplemental response. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or overpayment in connection with this amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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